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Mahoningside Free of Contaminants

WARREN – Nearly two years after the city demolished the Mahoningside Power Plant along Summit Street, the site is nearly free of contaminants and could be marketed for redevelopment within the year.

Mayor Henry J. Angelo says \$300,000 to \$400,000 worth of clean-up must be done before the site can be readied for development. "Once that's done, we'll market the property," he says. "It will bring great quality of life improvements to Warren."

Angelo says the city also has received a \$250,000 Environmental Protection Agency pilot grant to conduct feasibility studies on three to five other brownfield sites along the river.

When the city demolished the Mahoningside plant in 1999, high levels of PCB contamination were discovered in the soil and water. "We believe we've gotten the high concentration of PCBs out of there," says Mark Durno, coordinator with the U.S. EPA.

The \$860,000 cleanup was funded through an EPA grant; local and state sources helped pay for demolition and additional work at the site, Angelo says. Cost of the project to date is \$2.3 million.

The site is critical to revitalizing downtown, Angelo says. It is close to the riverwalk development along the Mahoning River, he explains, and is an ideal setting for commercial redevelopment.